



Media Advisory

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"OPERATION FALCON 2007-NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA" **CAPTURES OVER 200 LOCAL FUGITIVES**

Pensacola, FL – Deputy United States Marshals teamed up with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to conduct a violent fugitive round up of fugitive sex offenders, wanted gang members, and violent felony offenders. Dubbed "Operation FALCON 2007" (Federal and Local Cops Organized Nationally), Deputy Marshals and their fellow task force members arrested 210 felony fugitives throughout the Northern District of Florida which includes 23 counties spanning from Pensacola to Gainesville. Included in these arrests were 19 sex offenders and two homicide suspects, one of them a member of the notorious Latin Kings street gang.

Carlos Zavala, was wanted by the Lee County Sheriff's Office on two warrants issued on June 26, 2007 charging him with First Degree Homicide and Armed Robbery with a Firearm. After leads were forwarded to the FALCON operation in North Florida from the U.S. Marshals Office in Fort Meyers, a FALCON arrest team from the Pensacola Division in Okaloosa County was sent to Bay County. Early in the morning of August 21, surveillance was set up at several locations in Bay County. After several hours of surveillance FALCON task force members spotted Zavala walking down 17th Street in Panama City with another male subject and Zavala was taken into custody without incident. Several days later on August 24, another FALCON arrest team from Tallahassee determined that **Sandra Hernandez** was also wanted on a violation of probation warrant for aggravated battery from Lee County; and as a material witness for the homicide in which Carlos Zavala was charged. Investigators had pursued her for months from Miami to North Florida communities and learned that she was using the alias "Maria Giron" and was living on Panama City Beach. Her flight from justice ended early Friday morning when the FALCON arrest team knocked on her door in Panama City Beach.

Some other violent felons arrested in the Northern District of Florida, were **Edward Eugene Harrison** wanted by Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office for Lewd and Lascivious Acts on a Child Under 12; **Deric Scott King** wanted in Massachusetts for Home Invasion-Robbery and burglary charges violating his probation; and **Lamonte Herring** wanted by the Tallahassee Police Department on warrants for First Degree Attempted Homicide and a weapons offense stemming from a shooting incident earlier this month in Tallahassee.

Overall, of the 210 fugitives arrested, 83 were arrested in Tallahassee, including Leon, Gadsden, and Wakulla counties. Additionally, 50 fugitives were arrested in Gainesville and 67 fugitives were arrested in Pensacola. Of those arrested, two suspects were wanted on attempted homicide warrants, 17 were wanted for firearm offenses, 33 were wanted for assault and battery crimes, four were wanted for armed robbery and 19 were wanted for drug charges were also arrested. All fugitives targeted by the task force and arrested during this operation were identified because they were classified as violent felons.

Dennis Williamson, the U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Florida said, "The success of these fugitive initiatives, large scale round-ups of society's worst of the worst, exemplifies what law enforcement can accomplish when working together on all levels. The Marshals are happy to form these bonds with the other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. We look forward to continuing to work together after Operation FALCON ultimately resulting in safer communities for our children and a more secure homeland."

The U.S. Marshals Operation FALCON 2007- Northern District of Florida consisted of over 230 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers making up 20 separate arrest teams throughout the one week period. Immediately prior to the start of this operation, all state and local law enforcement officers were sworn in as special Deputy

U.S. Marshals in order to provide them with broader jurisdictional authority. Throughout the week, this special authority from the U.S. Marshals Service empowered all local and state law enforcement officers to cross traditional lines of jurisdiction to track down and arrest targeted fugitives.

Law enforcement agencies participating in this fugitive initiative in North Florida included:

- **Alachua County Sheriff's Office**
- **Alachua City Police Department**
- **Bay County Sheriff's Office**
- **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms**
- **Chiefland Police Department**
- **Dixie County Sheriff's Office**
- **Escambia County Sheriff's Office**
- **Florida Department of Corrections, Probation & Parole Division**
- **Florida Department of Law Enforcement**
- **Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco**
- **Florida State Attorney's Office, Criminal Investigations Division**
- **Fort Walton Beach Police Department**
- **Gadsden County Sheriff's Office**
- **Gainesville Police Department**
- **Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office**
- **High Springs Police Department**
- **Leon County Sheriff's Office**
- **Levy County Sheriff's Office**
- **Milton Police Department**
- **Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office**
- **Pensacola Police Department**
- **Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office**
- **Tallahassee Police Department**
- **United States Marshals Service**
- **University of Florida Police Department**
- **Wakulla County Sheriff's Office**

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